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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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RAYMOND A. RUSCITO, SR.
2 DREAMLAND ST
MANOR VILLAGE, NY 11950

| EXAMINER |
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NGUYEN, CHI Q

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3635

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/609,427

Applicant(s)

RUSCITO, RAYMOND A.

Examiner

Chi Q Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-15,19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8,16,17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the applicant's amendment filed on 11/1/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-13, 15, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Manzo (US 5,848,630).

In regarding claims 1, 9, 19, Manzo shows in figures 9-11 a moveable cover structure comprising a pair of support assemblies each having a base portion 20, a rail member 18; the rail member being coupled to the base portion of each of the support assemblies, at least one panel assembly 12 slidably coupling to the rail member 18 of each of the support assemblies such that the panel assembly is positioned between the support assemblies, the panel assembly being slidably positionable along a length of the rail member 18 of each of the support assemblies.

In regard claims 2, 10, 20, said panel assembly having frame member, which having a pair of side portions 60 and a pair of end portions 25.

In regard claims 3, 11, 15 said panel assembly having a plurality of roller members 34 being coupled to one of the side portions 60 of the frame structure such that each of the roller member engages the rail member of one of said

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support member assemblies, each of the roller members being for facilitating sliding of the panel assembly along said support assemblies.

In regard claims 4, 12, each of the roller members having a wheel 34 and an axle 64, said axle of each of the roller members being couple to one of the side portions of said frame member, said wheel being rotatably coupled to a free end of the axle of the associated one of the roller members (fig. 10).

In regard claims 5, 13, said panel assembly having a plurality of sleeve members 66, each of the sleeve members 66 being positioned in one of the side portions of the frame member, each of the sleeve members receiving the axle 64 (fig. 17).

In regard claims 7, 15, said panel assembly having a cover member 23, said cover member being coupled to the frame member such that the frame member is for supporting the cover member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manzo '630.

Manzo teaches the structural elements for the cover as stated except for the sleeve portions of each of said panel assemblies is positioned at an acute

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angle to a bottom face of the associated one of the side portions of the frame member. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adjust the sleeve portions of each of the panel assemblies in relation with the bottom face at an acute angle, since it has been held that the provision of adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Stevens*, 101 USPQ 284 (CCPA 1954). The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a better engagement between wheels and track thus having a smooth operating for the system.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 16, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 18 was previously allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 9, and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Whitley et al (US 6,629,387), Martin (US 6,540,003), Manzo (US 5,848,630), and Malott (US 5,732,756) teach slidable panels.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Chi Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 605-1224, Mon-Thu (7:00-5:30), Fridays off or examiner's supervisor, Carl

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Friedman can be reached at (703) 308-0839. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

CQN

CQN

12/28/04



BRIAN E. GLESSNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER